United States Patent [19]

Gunn

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[54] **MAIL PREPARATION, SORTING APPARATUS AND METHOD**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **235/494**; 209/584; 235/375

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 235/61.12 R, 61.12 N, 235/61.11 E, 61.11 R, 61.11 D, 61.12 M, 61.9 A, 151.33; 209/DIG. 1, 111.7, 11.5; 250/568, 569; 340/149 A

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

There is disclosed apparatus for marking and then sorting of articles by code or address marks which bear the identifying marks in a grid or code area locateable by one or more guide elements which may be separate and distinct from the marked code. More particularly, this apparatus and method is directed towards the preparation and sorting of bulk mail including the referencing of the written address as well as the code markings to the guide elements. Before passing the reading station, the articles are turned to use the customary location of stamps to minimize the movement of the optical train reading the identifying marks or a mirror, reflecting said marks to the reader, the movement of the mirror or optical train being synchronized to the movement of the guide elements to give the reader a more continuing image while nearly stationary.

12 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures